

**Preliminary Amendment filed May 30, 2006
U.S. Patent Application Serial No. 10/646,818**

REMARKS:

Claims 1-9 are currently pending. Claims 1-5 are currently being considered, all of which have been amended herein. Claims 6-9 have been withdrawn from consideration.

Claims 1-5 stand rejected under the second paragraph of 35 USC 112 as being indefinite,
with reference to “a combined shape of characters” in claims 1 and 2.

Claims 1 and 2, as amended, do not include this text: “a combined shape of characters.”

Thus, Applicants respectfully submit that the rejection of claims 1-5 under the second paragraph of 35 USC 112 should be withdrawn.

Claims 1-5 stand rejected under 35 USC 103(a) as obvious over USP 6,640,604 (Matsushita '604). Claims 1-5 stand rejected under 35 USC 103(a) as obvious over Alleged Admitted Prior Art in view of Matsushita '604.

Applicants respectfully traverse the above two rejections of claims 1-5 under 35 USC 103(a), for the following reasons.

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The Examiner has not demonstrated that **Matsushita '604** and alleged admitted prior art, alone or in combination, describe, teach, or suggest the following features set forth in claim 1, as amended: “irradiating a laser beam linearly onto the thin plate in a laser beam irradiation area between a first point and an end point in approximately the predetermined direction to curve the thin plate between the first point and the end point, wherein the laser beam is polarized in XY directions with a galvano scanner mirror and is condensed with a long focal length lens,” in combination with the other claimed features.

The Examiner has not demonstrated that **Matsushita '604** and alleged admitted prior art, alone or in combination, describe, teach, or suggest the following features set forth in claim 2, as amended: “laser beam is irradiated onto the thin plate in a laser beam irradiation area between a first point and an end point to curve the thin plate to a predetermined curvature to form a curve between the first point and the end point, wherein the laser beam is polarized in XY directions with a galvano scanner mirror and is condensed with a long focal length lens,” in combination with the other claimed features.

The Examiner has not demonstrated that **Matsushita '604** and alleged admitted prior art, alone or in combination, describe, teach, or suggest the following features set forth in claim 3, as amended: “irradiating a laser beam based on the selected irradiation shape combination to curve the thin plate between the first point and the end point, wherein the laser beam is polarized in XY

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directions with a galvano scanner mirror and is condensed with a long focal length lens,” in combination with the other claimed features.

The Examiner has not demonstrated that **Matsushita '604** and alleged admitted prior art, alone or in combination, describe, teach, or suggest the following features set forth in claim 4, as amended: “the laser beam is polarized in XY directions with a galvano scanner mirror and is condensed with a long focal length lens,” in combination with the other claimed features.

The Examiner has not demonstrated that **Matsushita '604** and alleged admitted prior art, alone or in combination, describe, teach, or suggest the following features set forth in claim 5, as amended: “the laser beam is polarized in XY directions with a galvano scanner mirror and is condensed with a long focal length lens,” in combination with the other claimed features.

Thus, in view of the above, Applicants respectfully submit that the above two rejections of claims 1-5 under 35 USC 103(a) should be withdrawn.

The amendments to claims 1-3 are supported by the following portions of the specification and drawings: page 11, lines 17-20; page 12, lines 4-8; page 14, line 22 to page 15, line 21; and Figures 1, 5, and 10A.

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The amendments to claims 4 and 5 are supported by the following portions of the specification and drawings: page 11, lines 17-20; page 12, lines 4-8; and Figure 1.

In view of the aforementioned amendments and remarks, all claims currently being considered are in condition for allowance, which action, at an early date, is requested.

If, for any reason, it is felt that this application is not now in condition for allowance, the Examiner is requested to contact the Applicants' undersigned attorney at the telephone number indicated below to arrange for an interview to expedite the disposition of this case.

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In the event that this paper is not timely filed, Applicants respectfully petition for an appropriate extension of time. Please charge any fees for such an extension of time and any other fees which may be due now or in the future with respect to this application, to Deposit Account No. 01-2340.

Respectfully submitted,
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